



Sugar Land Today

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Police Beats Are Foundation of Community Policing



Meeting regularly to discuss trends and concerns of their police beats are (l-r) Lieutenants Mark Grothaus, Michelle Allen, David Marcaurele and Justin Joyce. Each beat includes at least two detectives, one traffic officer and one crime prevention officer.

Police departments typically assign officers to certain geographic areas known as beats. The Sugar Land Police Department uses a beat accountability system to build on this basic policing concept and assigns teams to each beat.

"While Sugar Land has a

low crime rate, we are using the beat accountability initiative to further improve our community policing," said Police Chief Steve Griffith. "Beat accountability helps residents continue to feel safe in their neighborhoods. It involves officers getting closer to the community and under-

standing concerns by getting them out of their patrol cars and meeting face to face with residents and business owners within their assigned areas."

Sugar Land is divided into four beats determined by

See "Beat Managers" on page 10



DEAR RESIDENTS



Allen Bogard
City Manager

"Your trust is something we never want to lose."

Those were the closing words in my letter to you one year ago in *Sugar Land Today*. I was reporting on the progress of the Citizens Ethical Standards Task Force formed in August 2004. Their work culminated in an Ethics Ordinance passed by City Council last December, establishing ethical standards and procedures for Council and other nonemployee representatives of City government. City employees are covered by other internal policies and ethical standards.

As I stated one year ago and it has been repeated by City Council members recently, this policy is not based on any past or present ethical issues faced by the City. Ethical standards and principles are the foundation for maintaining public trust, and current City

Council determined we needed to formalize behavior already followed by City leaders.

Our proactive effort began in 2003, when City Council had established a strategic project that would create a written Code of Ethics to guide current and future leaders. They took a thoughtful approach and formed the independent Citizens Task Force, who spent almost one year developing a recommended code and enforcement procedures. They presented their recommendations to City Council last fall and Council reviewed and decided on options considered best for our community.

Two important aspects of the ordinance are that it exceeds state requirements and provides for a process to investigate citizen complaints. See page 5 for more on the ethics ordinance as approved by City Council in December. To read the ordinance, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov.

Citizen trust has been the foundation for our City since its incorporation almost 50 years ago. We have grown and prospered through the trust of municipal utility districts annexing into our City. Through your trust of City government, you passed a \$34.5 million bond referendum in January 1999. Through 2005, about \$17 million of those funds have been spent wisely on our street, park and public safety improvements. We have sound fiscal policies in place to manage your taxpayer dollars.

At its January 24 meeting, City Council received the independent audit for the prior fiscal year from our audit firm, Null-Lairson, P.C.. They expressed an unqualified or "clean" opinion on the City's financial statements. An unqualified opinion is the highest level of assurance that can be given and indicates that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the City as of the end of the fiscal year.

No material weaknesses or compliance findings were noted.

We have worked diligently with local, county, state and federal officials on mobility and economic development projects like the current expansion of U.S. 59, U.S. 90A and State Highway 6 and Sugar Land Town Square.

Sugar Land officials have been and will remain accountable to the people they serve.

Allen Bogard



Sugar Land's Code of Ethics maintains higher standards than those imposed by the state.

SUGAR LAND GOALS 2005 and Beyond

Well-planned community
Safest city in the area
Strong local economy
Responsible city government
Mobility for people
Livable neighborhoods

CITY COUNCIL

David G. Wallace
Mayor

Thomas Abraham
At-Large Position One

Daniel O. Wong
At-Large Position Two

Dennis C. Parmer
Single Member District One

Cyril Hosley
Single Member District Two
Mayor Pro Tem

Russell C. Jones
Single Member District Three

Michael S. Schiff
Single Member District Four

CITY MANAGEMENT

Allen Bogard
City Manager

David Ellison
Assistant City Manager

Karen Glynn
Assistant City Manager

Sugar Land Today is published bimonthly by the City of Sugar Land. Address your comments to editor@sugarlandtx.gov.

Contributors

Doug Adolph, Matt Aust, Jennifer Brown, Gary Cox, Stacie Dennis, Glenda Gundermann, Mark Hochstein, Mike Leech, Claire Manthei, Regina Morales, Damian Nguyen, Dorothy Painter, Andy Peal, Clark Peschel, Adam Smith, Clayton Taylor, Patrick Walsh



Web Site Redesign Brings New Features

Visit www.sugarlandtx.gov to see the site's new features and resident-friendly navigation that makes more information accessible directly from the home page.

Links and menu bars available on every page allow easy surfing. Four topic toolbars have drop-down menus with listings of City Services, Departments, City Hall and Online Services, which will be featured in the April-May newsletter. Other topics available from the home page include Ask City, City Calendar, Shop Sugar Land, Economic Development, Stay Connected, Growth & Expansion, Instant Alerts and

Hot Topics.

Sugar Land is committed to making the information on the Web site accessible to all users, regardless of disabilities and other special needs. Accessibility is aided by easy-to-understand navigation, minimized page loading time and posting content in a format that works with the widest number of Web browsing software and platforms.

All Sugar Land residents can now view SLtv 16 via the City's Web site.

Stay connected at www.sugarlandtx.gov, your 24/7 portal to the City of Sugar Land.



Revised SLtv 16 Video Schedule

Rebroadcast times: 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. each day

* City Council meetings are aired live on the first, third and fourth Tuesdays. Planning and Zoning Commission meetings are aired live at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday.

Monday	Planning and Zoning Commission
Tuesday	City Council*
Wednesday	Planning and Zoning Commission
Thursday	City Council*
Friday	Commissioners Court
Saturday	Fort Bend ISD
Sunday	City Council



The Texas Department of Transportation continues construction of the interior main lanes of U.S. 59 at Sweetwater Boulevard. This construction will result in a "diamond" interchange. The main lanes of U.S. 59 will pass over Sweetwater Boulevard, which will be at ground level along with the frontage roads for the freeway. TxDOT anticipates construction work to begin at the University Boulevard interchange in summer 2006, after which TxDOT will begin work on the Sweetwater interchange. Visit the "Highway Constructions" link on www.sugarlandtx.gov for updates.



Important 2006 City Election Dates

The official filing period for the May 13 Sugar Land City Council election begins Feb. 13 and continues to March 13 at 5 p.m. The office of mayor and council member at-large positions 1 and 2 will be on the ballot; each position will serve a two-year term.

To serve on City Council, individuals must be 21 years of age and be a resident of Sugar Land for at least one year preceding the election. Council members may not hold other City offices and may not be employed by the City during their terms of office or two years thereafter.

The April-May issue of *Sugar Land Today* will contain candidate and voting location information.

Early voting in person will begin on Monday, May 1 and continue through Tuesday, May 9. Weekend early voting will be held on Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7.

For additional information concerning the election, contact the City Secretary department by calling 281-275-2730, e-mailing citysec@sugarlandtx.gov or stopping by City Hall at 2700 Town Center Blvd North.

February

13 First day to file for place on City ballot

March

13 Last day to file for place on City ballot

14 First day to apply for City ballot by mail

April

13 Last day to register to vote

May

1 First day of early voting

5 Last day to apply for City ballot by mail

6 Weekend early voting 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

7 Weekend early voting 1– 5 p.m.

9 Last day of early voting

13 General Election 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Newest Building Codes Adopted

Last December, City Council adopted the 2003 International Building Codes required by the state for all residential and commercial construction in the City limits and included local amendments that exceeded the minimum code requirements.

The 2003 codes include those for building, electrical, fuel gas, mechanical, plumbing, property maintenance, residential and fire.

Sugar Land's amendments to the 2003 IBC protect public health, safety and welfare; do not unnecessarily increase construction costs; do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; and do not give preferential treatment to particular types or classes of material, products or methods of construction. The IBC and Sugar Land's amendments complement standards for building construction of both commercial and residential projects.

"Sugar Land's adopted codes add safety and value for property owners," said Clark Peschel, City building official. "When Sugar Land previously adopted the 2000 International



Sugar Land's building code protects property owners' investments.

Building Codes, we added several amendments recommended by a technical advisory committee and were included with the 2003 IBC."

Permits and inspections are required for new buildings, additions, remodeling, swimming pools, roofing, siding replacement, water heater and air conditioner replacements, driveways, sidewalks, storage buildings, covered patios and repairs to a building or component of a building.

"Anyone planning a building project should contact Permits and Inspection staff for assistance in determining submittal, permit and code requirements," Peschel said.

Sugar Land's building codes and permit requirements are available at www.sugarlandtx.gov under City Services. For more information, call 281-275-2270.

City Council Approves Ethics Code

Sugar Land City Council approved on Dec. 20 a local Code of Ethics, a document providing rules of ethical conduct for City Council and Council-appointed Boards, Commissions and Task Forces. In certain situations, the code also covers candidates for City Council and former City officials.

"The City Council is to be commended for imposing these standards," said City Manager Allen Bogard. "They unanimously agreed that our community should have the highest ethical standards, not just for now but for many years to come. It's important to note that this code was not developed in response to any current or past issues. The City Council action was based on members being proactive and forward-thinking leaders."

City Council decided to develop higher local ethical standards than those imposed by the state for itself and other affected officials. City employees are covered by internal policies, laws and codes of conduct established by certain professional organizations.

Establishment of a local ethics code has been a Council policy priority for about two years. The code begins with a set of guiding

values stating that City officials should be accountable to the citizens of Sugar Land, committed to the public welfare, truthful and fair. The values also state that City officials should conduct themselves with integrity, be responsible stewards of taxpayers' money and take no official actions resulting in personal benefit or conflict with the best interests of the City.

Citizen Task Force Created

City Council asked a team of citizen leaders to assist with creation of a local ethics code as an important first step. Each of the seven Council members appointed one citizen to the Citizens Ethical Standards Task Force established by City Council resolution on Aug. 17, 2004. For nine months, these citizen leaders met regularly, researched best practices from other communities, provided regular updates to City Council and responded to Council policy direction. On May 17, 2005, the task force presented its final recommendations to City Council, which further refined the local code as necessary.

Members of the task force were Karyn Dean, Clyde

Jacks, Cindy Newlin, Martin Nicholas (chairman), John Niemand, Debra Ross and Jeff Tallas.

Meaningful, Balanced Code

Highlights of the code follow:

- Officials must avoid conflicts of interest by disclosing specific relationships defined in the code and abstain from participation, discussion or any vote on a matter involving these relationships.
- Council members are prohibited from doing business with the City while in office and must wait a minimum of 13 months after leaving office to have financial interest in a contract with the City.
- City officials must disclose, in writing, information on gifts of food, transportation, lodging or entertainment if the cumulative value is greater than \$500 and given in connection with the person's status as a City official.
- City officials are prohibited from disclosing or misusing information deemed confidential under any federal, state or local law or under

Council rules.

- Ethical concerns must be submitted in writing and cannot be anonymous. Sanctions are administrative in nature and can be imposed only by the review panel.
- City Council is the review panel for properly filed ethics complaints. A member of City Council is disqualified from serving on the review panel if the complaint is filed against the Council member, by the Council member or against a candidate opposing a Council member in an election.
- City officials concerned about informal or unsubstantiated allegations may request name-clearing proceedings.
- The penalty for knowingly filing false complaints or testimony is up to \$500 per offense.

In addition, the ethics code addresses political activities and provides a process for filing complaints and reviewing allegations.

A copy of the new Ethics Code is available on www.sugarlandtx.gov

Sugar Land Assists in Continued Development of UH System at Sugar Land

The Sugar Land 4B Corporation and City Council recently approved agreements with the University of Houston System at Sugar Land that will increase the number and size of facilities on the campus as well as provide increased educational, recreational and employment opportunities for Sugar Land and area residents.

"This is an exciting project for the University and the City," said Joe Esch, Sugar Land's executive director for business and intergovernmental relations. "The expansion of facilities at UH System at Sugar Land will provide enhanced educational opportunities to area residents. This, combined with the opportunity for the City to lease property to meet the needs of the City and the



University, will serve as a catalyst for our continued success in economic development and community development."

The UH System at Sugar Land campus will expand

with 145,000 square feet of additional building space at an estimated value of \$30 million.

In order to facilitate the expansion as well as achieve other mutual objectives,

Sugar Land will lease 52 acres from the University via an agreement with the Sugar Land 4B Corporation for up to 100 years. The agreement provides for \$3.5 million from the 4B Corporation in two payments paid in phases for the lease of the property.

Potential uses of the leased acreage will complement the City's Brazos River corridor. Features may include parks, recreation and community centers; gardens; entertainment facilities; jogging and biking trails; playgrounds; athletic fields; and related parking, streets, utilities, drainage and detention areas to serve constructed facilities.

A feasibility study will be conducted jointly between the University and the City on a potential research park on the site.

Sunoco Logistics Relocates to Sugar Land

As a result of the City's economic development efforts, Sunoco Logistics Partners, LP has relocated its western division headquarters from Tulsa to Sugar Land. With a western pipeline system of 2,171 miles of crude oil trunk pipelines; 533 miles of crude oil gathering lines serving the Oklahoma, West Texas, Texas Gulf Coast and East Texas operations of Sunoco, Incorporated; plus the major

Nederland Terminal on the Texas coast between Beaumont and Port Arthur, it was natural that Sunoco Logistics in Philadelphia would look to the Houston region when it decided to move its Tulsa operating base.

Sunoco Logistics Consultant for Business Development Jim Nolan commented, "We found that in the area, Sugar Land had benefits of cost

and facilities that the City backed energetically with direct and tax incentives to encourage our relocation there. We will be employing over 145 people in Sugar Land. Our 46,000-square-foot offices will be leased from Fluor Daniel at the Lake Pointe Plaza complex."

The company anticipates that approximately half the workforce will be hired locally.

Thermo Electron Opens State-of-the-Art Manufacturing Facility



Thermo Electron Corporation, a premier global supplier of analytical instruments, recently consolidated manufacturing operations from Round Rock and Houston to Sugar Land. Marking a major milestone for Thermo Electron's Process Systems business, the new 150,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility increased Thermo's manufacturing operations in Texas by nearly 75 percent. The Process Systems business

unit manufactures gas flow computers, nuclear sensors, process analyzers and ultrasonic flow meters at this new facility, with a focus on the oil and gas and petrochemical industries. This project creates a \$20 million capital investment for the City and brings more than 230 jobs.

Thermo Electron CEO Marijn Dekkers said, "Thermo is committed to expanding its presence in the oil and

gas industry, and this facility marks the next step in achieving that goal. This region delivers a deep pool of talent, and we see great potential for Thermo's future in Sugar Land."

It's All Right Here – Shop Sugar Land

A user-friendly shopping brochure and Web site now provide Sugar Land shoppers with easy access to listings, locations and contact information for over 700 area shops. Visit www.sugarlandtx.gov and click on Shop Sugar Land to enhance your shopping enjoyment at its Web site, www.shopsugarland.com. For the shopper on the go, a 12-page brochure is available at City Hall, 2700 Town Center Blvd., and the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce, 445 Commerce Green Blvd.

The Economic Development Department created this shoppers' dream tool to reduce the frustration of locating the right store or restaurant and to promote Sugar Land's exceptional retailers.

For further information, call 281-275-2229.





Operating Funds are Vital to Fiscal Health

Sugar Land's budget is made up of major operating funds, such as the General Fund, Utility Fund and Sugar Land Regional Airport. In previous issues of *Sugar Land Today*, residents learned about departments and services provided from the General Fund.

The Airport and the Utility Fund are described below.

Sugar Land Regional Airport

The City owns and operates Sugar Land Regional Airport, a 426-acre site located on State Highway 6 just north of U.S. 90A. The airport is home to approximately 200 privately owned and corporate aircraft. The airport is committed to being a good neighbor to surrounding residents, businesses and the overall community.

In fiscal year 2005-2006, Sugar Land Regional Airport expects to:

- sell 2.1 million gallons of fuel (an average of 175,000 gallons of fuel per month)
- serve 12,500 airplanes

As a fixed based operator (FBO), it provides fuel and general aviation customer services and has these assets:

- The 8,000-foot, all-weather, fully instrumented runway is longer than any at Houston Hobby Airport.
- FAA-approved control tower and radar capabilities are beneficial to pilots.

- Since last year, U.S. Customs and Border Protection services allow corporate tenants arriving from overseas to fly directly to Sugar Land.
- The completion of the new 20,000-square-foot terminal this spring will further improve customer service.

The airport is self-supporting through user charges, primarily generated from fuel sales. In the last five years, fuel sales have increased 606,000 gallons (40.5 percent) as the corporate aviation community has recognized Sugar Land as a great place to land and base.

Sugar Land Regional Airport's fiscal year 2005-2006 budget totals \$7.9 million, 65 percent of which is FBO services. The airport operates every day, 18 hours a day, with 27 employees.

- The 12 members of the line crew provide fuel services, marshal all aircraft, tow aircraft and handle luggage.
- Customer Services, staffed by five employees, uses the concierge approach to deliver services, including handling customer invoices, telephone contacts, hotel and food reservations, rental car requests and catering.
- Four employees provide maintenance of hangars, the terminal and other structures; airfield lighting; runways and taxiways; and mowing.

The airport continues to

make improvements with the replacement of the terminal, the \$15 million general aviation development program and new t-hangars. Improved levels of service, such as the addition of U.S. Customs, enables the airport to remain strong in the highly competitive corporate aviation market.

Water/Wastewater Utility Fund

The Utility Fund's 2005-2006 budget is \$19.1 million, including debt and cash for capital improvements. An approximately \$120-million-system ensures that daily water activities of homes and businesses are seamless. The system supplies quality water that complies with all federal and state water quality standards and meets customer demands. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality rates the City's water quality as "Superior." The integrity of all of the systems is assured through daily and comprehensive inspection, maintenance and repair.

The utility system is staffed by 43 employees in areas such as Billing and Collections. Of the \$8.4 million designated for operations and maintenance, approximately \$2.8 million is used to pay for the outsourcing of a portion of the water and wastewater operations. This contracting out to other firms leads to lower

costs, which ultimately leads to lower user fees.

The City's water and wastewater utilities are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises, where costs of providing the services to the public are financed primarily through user charges. The water/wastewater fees are reviewed by the City annually to ensure that the costs of operations, debt service, capital improvements and reserve requirements are being met through the revenues generated. When necessary, rates are adjusted appropriately.

Sugar Land's water distribution system is comprised of:

- 335 miles of distribution water mains
- 20,000+ meters
- 2,500 fire hydrants
- 3,800 mainline valves

Water is provided through:

- 5 water plants
- 14 water wells
- 13 ground storage tanks
- 3 elevated storage tanks
- 22 high service booster pumps

Wastewater is conveyed:

- through 320 miles of sanitary sewer collection lines
- through 85 lift stations
- to one of two wastewater treatment plants

In fiscal year 2005-2006, Sugar Land expects to:

- produce approximately 5 billion gallons of water annually (14 million gallons a day)
- treat 3 billion gallons of wastewater
- read 258,000 meters

Pay-As-You-Go Financing is Fiscally Responsible

Sugar Land funds capital improvements through the issuance of debt and with pay-as-you-go funding, which is considered cash from current revenues (e.g., sales tax, utility revenues, airport revenues and developer fees), grants, partnership or fund balances in reserve.

Pay-as-you-go funding is considered a best practice in public budgeting by the Government Finance Officers Association and other professional organizations. Consistent use of pay-as-you-go funding lowers debt and enhances the City's credit rating, allowing for a lower cost of borrowing when the City does need to issue debt.

The current budget includes \$21.7 million in capital improvement projects, 39 percent of which are funded from pay-as-you-go sources.

The 2006-2010 Capital Improvement Program maintains this 39 percent funding from sources other than debt for projects. (See Dec. 2005-Jan. 2006 *Sugar Land Today* for an overview of 2006-2010 CIP projects and a list of current projects.)

Sugar Land strives to maximize its use of pay-as-you-go funding instead of issuing debt. By keeping planned projects within its current and future financial resources, the City:

- minimizes the impact of capital spending on future generations;
- preserves its credit rating, which lowers interests costs; and
- avoids dependence on flexible revenue sources to fund day-to-day operations.

Fire Administration to Relocate to Former City Hall

The City has decided to retain the former City Hall at 10405 Corporate Drive and relocate Fire Administration there. Design began in January, with construction to occur this summer. Fire Administration will use the adjacent City-owned land for training purposes.

The facility has been vacant since November 2004, when the fourth and final City Hall opened at 2700 Town Center Blvd. North.

Water Utility Rates Increase March 1

A 2 percent utility rate increase becomes effective with March 1 billings that are based on February water consumption. Sugar Land's sound fiscal management of the utility system means that a 5.2 percent increase identified last year can be reduced.

Each year Sugar Land analyzes water and wastewater rates needed to support operations, debt and infrastructure of the utility system to ensure that revenues generated are sufficient to cover the cost of providing service.

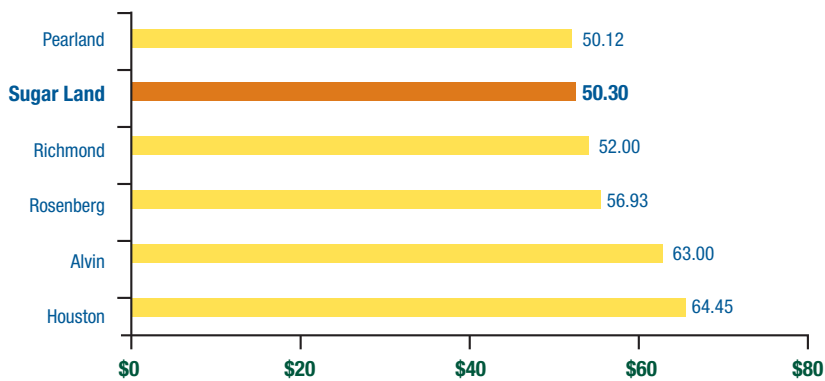
Even with a rate increase, the 2005 Texas Municipal League water and wastewater rate survey places a Sugar Land monthly bill for 10,000 gallons as the sixth lowest among participating cities. The average bill of 26 cities with a population similar to that of Sugar Land is \$58.38, compared to Sugar Land's future bill of \$50.30.

The table below compares Sugar Land to several area cities.

For more information, call 281-275-2750 or visit www.sugarlandtx.gov and click on Departments, Treasury Management and Water/Wastewater Rates.

Residential Rate Increase Examples	
No. gallons	Monthly Increase
3,000	46 cents
10,000	95 cents
15,000	\$1.35
25,000	\$2.20
(based on a 3/4-inch meter)	

Comparison of Local Residential Water Rates Per 10,000 Gallons





Beat Managers

(continued from page 1)

geography and the number of service calls. An annual workload analysis helps SLPD determine the number of patrol officers and sergeants needed per beat, per shift and per day. Each beat is assigned at least two detectives, one traffic officer and one crime prevention officer. Team members work together to identify and resolve particular neighborhood concerns.

Leading each team is a lieutenant who is responsible for managing all resources assigned to his or her beat.

"These managers are essential to the success of the police beat concept," said Griffith. "Their years of law enforcement experience, knowledge of each neighborhood within their police beat and their problem-solving capabilities make them invaluable."

Each month the beat managers discuss activities and issues within their respective beats with the police chief, two assistant chiefs and captains, emphasizing criminal trends, community meetings, problem areas/community concerns, quality-of-life issues, traffic concerns and team effectiveness and accomplishments.

"We've improved communication because all levels of police personnel offer input through the beat manager up the chain of command. It also means, for example, that

information from a detective on the day shift is made available to a traffic officer working at night," said Griffith.

As a management tool, Griffith says the beat model bridges management and accountability. As the lieutenants manage their resources, they become responsible to residents.

"Accountability — comparing statistics and looking for positive or negative developments — challenges the beat manager to make sure he or she is on top of trends, issues and concerns and ultimately reinforces our goal of being the safest city in the area," said Griffith.

Meet Sugar Land's Police Beat Managers

Beat 1

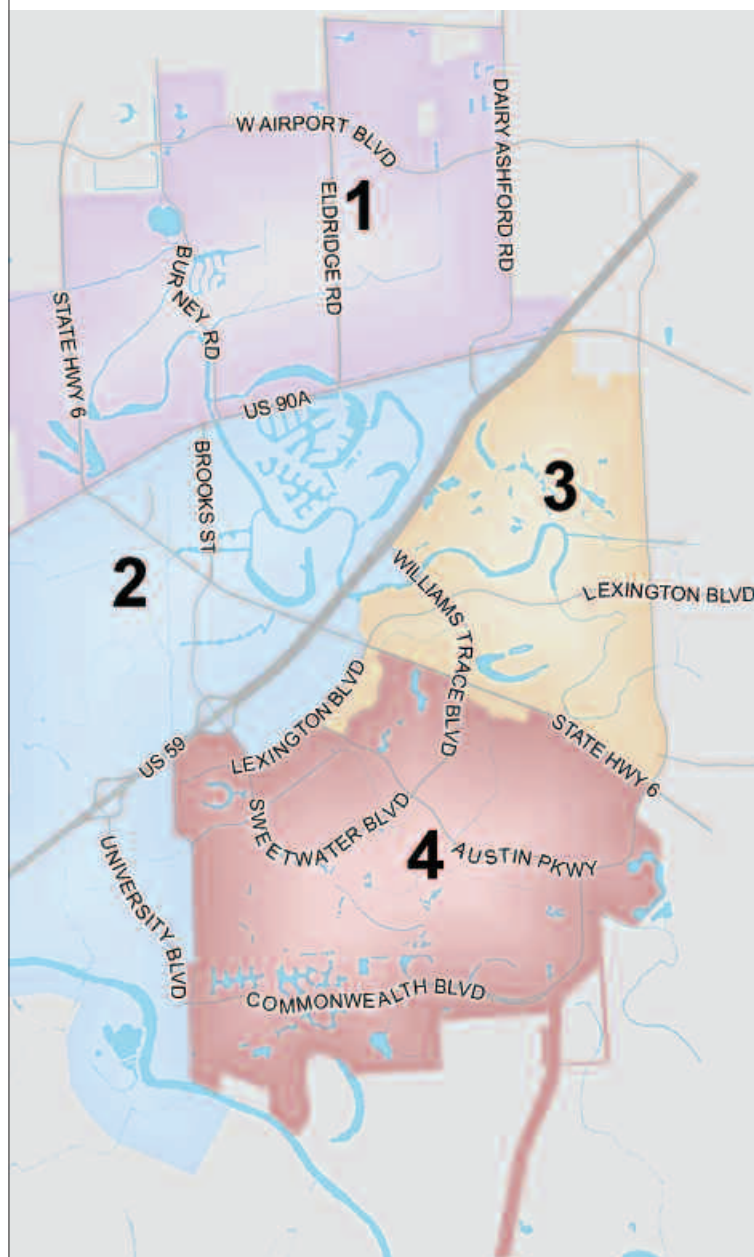
Lt. Michelle Allen has served Sugar Land residents for 8 years as a patrol officer and sergeant for the patrol, identification and professional standards divisions. She is the night shift patrol watch commander. She previously worked in law enforcement for Houston Baptist University, Spring ISD and Fort Bend County Precinct 4. She holds a Texas Master Peace Officer license.

Allen earned a bachelor's degree with a double major in management and computer information systems from Houston Baptist University. She recently graduated from Sam Houston State

University with a master's in criminal justice management. Allen is a graduate of the Leadership Command College at Sam Houston State University.

"Assigning a beat manager provides residents with a sin-

gle contact person for concerns in their area. Residents north of U.S. 90A should contact me directly for any problems or issues with which law enforcement officers may be able to assist," Allen said.



Sugar Land Police Beat Map

Beat 2

In his 23-year law enforcement career, Lt. David Marcaurele has served with municipal police and county sheriff departments. His extensive experience encompasses nearly all law enforcement areas, including county jail operations, patrol, SWAT, narcotics, criminal investigations, traffic unit, crime prevention, communications, identification, civil process, court security, warrants and fugitive apprehension, records and internal affairs. During his 13 years with SLPD, he received its lifesaving award and the Police Medal of Valor.

Marcaurele holds a Texas Master Peace Officer license. As he sees it, Sugar Land benefits from the beat accountability model because "beat thinking emphasizes the need to address issues that affect people on a more inti-

mate, neighborhood level, as opposed to using a Citywide approach."

Beat 3

Lt. Mark Grothaus is the evening shift patrol watch commander and also has served SLPD over the past 10 years as a patrol officer, patrol sergeant and detective.

Grothaus earned a bachelor's of business administration in management from Texas Tech University and is a Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas graduate. He has qualified for and applied for his Texas Master Peace Officer license.

He was awarded the Exchange Club Officer of the

Year award in 2000.

"Beat accountability improves communication and allows us to identify issues or trends and address them appropriately. While officers have always worked a beat, this model keeps us aware of what's going on 24/7," Grothaus said.

Beat 4

Lt. Justin Joyce oversees the City's largest residential beat. The 25-year law enforcement veteran holds a Texas Master Peace Officer license and has experience in patrol, administrative services, support and investigative services. He has been awarded two lifesaving awards and an outstanding officer award from SLPD.

Joyce is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Leadership Command College at Sam Houston State University. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Houston. Joyce and his family are Sugar Land residents.

"Beat accountability is the essence of police work, which is knowing the people I serve. We can't know all 70,000 residents, but my team and I can get to know the residents in Beat 4 and work to identify trends and solutions more quickly," Joyce said.

Beat Manager Contact Info

Beat 1	Lt. Michelle Allen	281-275-2917	mallen@sugarlandtx.gov
Beat 2	Lt. David Marcaurele	281-275-2522	dmarcaurele@sugarlandtx.gov
Beat 3	Lt. Mark Grothaus	281-275-2547	mgrothaus@sugarlandtx.gov
Beat 4	Lt. Justin Joyce	281-275-2552	jjoyce@sugarlandtx.gov

Sugar Land Fire's Improved ISO Rating Translates to Savings for Residents

The Sugar Land Fire Department's initiatives to improve the City's public fire protection classification — known as an ISO rating — can translate to an approximate 8 percent savings for residential customers and an approximate 2 percent fire insurance savings for commercial customers with some insurance companies if the citizen or business resides within Sugar Land's city limits.

The new ISO rating of two took effect May 1, 2005.

"For a home valued at \$150,000, a homeowner could save approximately \$129 per year on fire insurance," said Fire Chief Dannie Smith. "For a business valued at \$1 million, there is a potential annual savings of about \$90."

Sugar Land residents and commercial customers should notify their respective insurance companies of the improved City rating in order to take advantage of the potential insurance discounts. For a downloadable letter that can be sent to

insurance companies, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov. Look under General Information on the Fire Department page for the ISO rating link.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) provides insurance companies reliable, up-to-date information about a municipality's fire protection services to help establish appropriate fire insurance premiums for residential and commercial properties. Communities are rated on a scale of one to 10, one being the best rating.

"Since only six cities in Texas have an ISO rating of one and 38 cities have a rating of two, Sugar Land has earned a status in an elite group," said Smith. "Our department diligently worked during 2004 to achieve the required ISO evaluation benchmarks in order to provide our citizens with the potential fire insurance savings."

Motorized Scooter Safety Improved

Use of motorized scooters and similar devices now falls under City regulations that go beyond state requirements.

The state recently enacted legislation allowing electric vehicles and motorized scooters on any roadway with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less and allowing municipalities to regulate their use for safety reasons. This would have allowed the operation of scooters on busy roadways such as Austin Parkway, Settlers Way or Williams Trace Boulevards.

In the interest of the safety of residents of all ages, Sugar Land City Council passed an ordinance last December that restricts use to residential streets with a speed limit not to exceed 30 miles per hour, prohibiting their use on a main street. The ordinance also stipulates motor-assisted scooters:

- cannot be ridden on sidewalks,
- can be used only during daylight hours,
- be operated by a person with a valid driver's license and
- may not be operated with more passengers than they are designed for.

Additionally, anyone under 21 must wear protective headgear while riding the scooter. An individual may not allow a child under 16-years-old and in their care to operate a scooter on a public roadway.

The ordinance also addresses other motorized mobility devices used by disabled persons; neighborhood electric vehicles, such as golf carts, toy vehicles, roller skates and skateboards; and similar motorized or nonmotorized devices.

- Motorized wheelchairs and mobility devices can be ridden on sidewalks.
- Golf carts (also defined as neighborhood electric vehicles) may not

transport more than the number of passengers they are designed to carry.

- Persons utilizing skateboards and roller skates must yield right-of-way to pedestrians on sidewalks.

Golf carts are considered motor vehicles, and traffic laws including driver's license requirements apply to them when operated on a public roadway. Golf carts are exempt from vehicle registration requirements when operated in a master planned community, within two miles from point of origin and driven to and from the golf course only.

The law does not affect electric personal assisted mobility devices known as Segways, "pocket rocket" motorcycles or mopeds, all of which are already covered under specific state laws which prohibit or regulate their operation.

Violation of the law carries a \$200 fine, and the parents or guardians may

be held responsible if they allow a child in their care to violate the ordinance.

With the goal of gaining voluntary compliance, officers educated residents about the provisions of the revised ordinance with a 30-day grace period before enforcing the law.

Per the ordinance, a motor-assisted scooter has the following features:

- at least two wheels in contact with the ground during operation,
- a braking system capable of stopping the device under typical operating conditions,
- a gas or electric motor not exceeding 40 cubic centimeters,
- a deck designed to allow a person to stand or sit while operating the device, and
- the ability to be propelled by human power alone.



Captain Gary Cox discusses scooter safety, including the use of protective headgear by anyone under the age of 21, with a Clements High School student.



We're Keeping Sugar Land Beautiful

Annual environmentally friendly events such as Christmas Tree Recycling, Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off, electronics and hazardous household materials recycling and the H2O Expo are made possible with the support and partnership of Keep Sugar Land Beautiful.

The Sugar Land Recycling Advisory Board was established in 1990 to promote and protect Sugar Land's natural beauty and environment through education, Citywide programs and public awareness activities. In 1999, the Board became a nonprofit organization and was renamed Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, one of more than 300 Texas communities that are Keep Texas Beautiful affiliates.

The City contracted with KSLB in 1999 to provide promotion of the City's stormwater and recycling programs, provide public education on various environmental issues and promote and organize volunteer support for City-sponsored events.

"We have developed strong partnerships with the City, businesses, civic groups and volunteers that all work together to address litter prevention, solid waste management, recycling, composting, beautification and general community improvement," said Vicki Gist, KSLB executive director.

One of Keep Sugar Land Beautiful's greatest successes was first place in the Keep Texas Beautiful Governor's Community Achievement Awards for 2001-2002. This award recognizes excellence in environmental programming and community support. KSLB received a \$130,000 landscape grant to create an inviting greenspace at a City gateway at Dairy Ashford Road at U.S. 59.

Volunteer opportunities with Keep Sugar Land Beautiful are available for residents of all ages. Volunteers help at events and with environmental education. Contact KSLB at 281-313-5752 or info@kslb.org.

Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off

Want to see Sugar Land looking its best? Join other volunteers in the Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off on Saturday, March 25.

The 13th annual Trash-Off begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Sugar Land Community Center, 226 Matlage Way. After a morning rally, participants will disperse to designated pick-up locations across the City.

Last year, approximately 328 volunteers from ages 5 to 80 removed more than three tons of trash from City roadsides, parks and waterways.

This Citywide clean-up effort is Sugar Land's contribution to the Great American Cleanup, a national effort annually sponsored by Keep America Beautiful. Last year it mobilized over 2.45 million volunteers in approximately 15,000 communities across the United States.

Interested Trash-Off participants should contact Keep Sugar Land Beautiful at 281-313-5752 or info@kslb.org. Advance registration is greatly appreciated. Registration forms are available at www.kslb.org/events.html.



During the 2005 Trash-Off, volunteers collected trash in waterways and on dry land to help keep Sugar Land beautiful.



Branch Out with Tree Trimming Resources



The extensive tree canopy in many parts of Sugar Land is beneficial to property values and the environment. New tree trimming requirements will maintain those benefits while promoting public safety.

In August 2005, the City updated its requirements for tree management within City rights-of-way. Sugar Land property owners are asked to trim tree branches to newly required heights by January 2007.

The new ordinance requires that:

- All trees that overhang neighborhood streets must be trimmed to 12 feet above the street and 8 feet above the sidewalk.
- All trees that overhang major roadways must be trimmed to 14 feet above the street and 8 feet above the sidewalk.

"Sugar Land wants to maintain the aesthetic beauty of the community, promote good tree health and maintain a safe and usable right-of-way," said Mike Leech, Public Works assistant director. "To help property owners understand the revised tree-trimming program and help them determine whether to trim branches themselves or hire

a tree-trimming professional, we have created several public education resources."

Information on the program appears on SLtv 16, in this newsletter and has also been provided to homeowner association newsletters.

Visit www.sugarlandtx.gov and search on "tree trimming" to view information about the new ordinance requirements and references for additional tree care information. To view the SLtv 16 videos, click on the SLtv 16 link on the Web page under "Stay Connected."

Keep Sugar Land Beautiful offers tree care classes throughout the year, which will be posted on the calendar at www.kslb.org.

"We want residents to understand that public safety

and tree health are connected. Trees that are trimmed well contribute to healthier trees and higher property values. Many property owners can safely trim lower branches. For large limbs and limbs that can't safely be reached, Sugar Land recommends hiring a professional arborist," Leech said.

Sugar Land solid waste disposal requirements state that tree limbs placed for collection at the curb must be no longer than 4 feet in length and have a diameter of 4 inches or less. They do not need to be bundled. Tree stumps and logs will not be picked up.

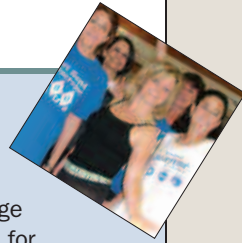
Call 281-275-2450 with any questions or concerns.

LEISURE CLASSES FOR EVERYONE



Shape Up, Sugar Land!

Help Sugar Land earn its third "Fittest City" title in a row by taking part in Texas Roundup, an annual initiative established by Governor Perry to encourage Texans to be more physically fit. Points are earned for activities including running, tennis and gardening. This year's winners will be announced on April 29 in Austin. Register at www.texasroundup.org and begin recording your points today!



Call Parks and Recreation at 281-275-2885 for all the details.

Tai Chi

When: Mondays & Wednesdays,
9:30-11 a.m.,
Beginner/Intermediate;
Wednesdays,
7-8:30 p.m., Beginner

Where: Sugar Land
Community Center

Ages: 14-Adult

Fee: Resident: \$7 per class
Nonresident: \$8.75
per class

Karate

When: Tuesdays
6-7 p.m., Beginners;
7-8 p.m., Advanced;
8-9 p.m., Adult

Where: Eldridge Park
Community Center

Ages: Beginner (5-12);

Fee:

Advanced (5-12);
Adult (13-70)
Resident: \$40 per 11-week
session; \$30 per
uniform (required)
Nonresident: \$50 per
11-week session; \$30
per uniform (required)

Ballet Flamenco

When:
Mondays:
4:15-5:15 p.m., Beginner
5:20-6:20 p.m., Intermediate
6:30-7:30 p.m., Intermediate II

Thursdays:
5:20-6:40 p.m., Intermediate
6:45-8:05 p.m., Intermediate II

Where:

Lost Creek Community Center

Ages:

Beginner (4 years & older),
Intermediate (5 years & older),
Intermediate II (10 years & older)

Fee:

Resident:
Beginner - \$35 per month
(1 session per week);
Intermediate & Intermediate II -
\$70 per month (2 sessions
per week)
Nonresident:
Beginner - \$43.75
per month
(1 session per week);
Intermediate & Intermediate II -
\$87.50 per month
(2 sessions per week)

Jazzercise

When: Mondays, Wednesdays
and Fridays:
8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,
4:30 p.m., 5:40 p.m.
Tuesdays:
5:40 p.m.
Thursdays:
9:30 a.m., 5:40 p.m.
Saturdays:
8 a.m., 9 a.m.

Where: First Colony
Community Center

For Fee info:
281-437-7157 and
www.fortbendjazz.com



Line Dancing

Who: Marietta Stone

When: Tuesdays,
3-5 p.m.

Where: Sugar Land
Community Center

Ages: Adult

Fees: Resident: \$15 per month
Nonresident: \$18.75
per month

Who: Laddie De Rouen

When: Wednesdays,
1-3 p.m.

Where: Sugar Land
Community Center

Ages: Adult

Fees: Resident: \$12 per month
(Beginners or Advanced)
Nonresident: \$15 per
month
(Beginners or Advanced)

Fencing

Who: Bayou City Fencing
Academy instructors

When: Mondays & Wednesdays,
7-8:30 p.m.

Where: Sugar Land
Community Center

Ages: 10-Adult

Fee: Resident: \$100 per month
Nonresident: \$125
per month

Dog Obedience

When: Tuesdays
6:30-7:30 p.m.,
Puppy Preschool
and Basic I;
7:30-8:30 p.m.,
Basic II

Where: Sugar Land
Community Center

Ages: 16-Adult

Fee: Resident: \$85 per class
Nonresident: \$106.25
per class

SAVE THE DATE

- Eggstravaganza, April 14 from noon to 3 p.m. at Eldridge Park
- Concerts in the Park, each Sunday from April 23 through May 28 at 5 p.m. in Oyster Creek Park

CALENDAR

Please visit www.sugarlandtx.gov to confirm events.

	DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
MARCH	7, 21, 28	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	11	Soil and Composting class	10 a.m. – noon	Lost Creek Park
	13	Last day to file for place on City ballot	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	City Hall
	14	First day to apply for City ballot by mail	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	City Hall
	14	Parks Board meeting	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	14, 23	Planning and Zoning Commission	7 p.m.	City Hall
	23	Youth Sports Association	6 p.m.	City Hall Annex
	25	Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off	8:30 a.m.	Meet at Sugar Land Community Center
APRIL	4, 18, 25	City Council	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	11, 27	Planning and Zoning Commission	7 p.m.	City Hall
	11	Parks Board meeting	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
	13	Last day to register to vote	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	City Hall
	14	Eggstravaganza	Noon – 3 p.m.	Eldridge Park
	14	Good Friday * City offices closed * Regular solid waste collection		
	20	Senior Spring Fling	4 – 7 p.m.	Sugar Land Community Center
	20	Citywide Neighborhood/HOA representative meeting	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
	20	Vermicomposting workshop	7 – 9 p.m.	Eldridge Park
	22	Electronics Recycling	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Eldridge Park
	23	Concert in the Park	5 p.m.	Oyster Creek Park
	26-30	Grand Wine & Food Affair		Throughout City
	27	Youth Sports Association	6 p.m.	City Hall Annex
	30	Concert in the Park	5 p.m.	Oyster Creek Park

City of Sugar Land
P. O. Box 110
Sugar Land, TX 77487-0110



The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council's project for National Youth Service Day will take place April 22.

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